

The World

Editor Laurence B. Garcia

Damascus, Beirut hold summit on Lebanon pullout

DAMASCUS—Syria's President Bashar al-Assad and Lebanese counterpart Emile Lahoud were to hold a summit in Damascus on Monday to mark the start of a pullback of Syrian troops in its neighbor.

Assad's outgoing, Iranian ally, Amal Beirut chief said Sunday that the Syrian military would start the month-long troop redeployment to the Bekaa Valley of western Lebanon after the summit.

A Lebanese presidential spokesman said the meeting of the Syrian-Lebanese Supreme Council, with Lahoud's outgoing proxy, Omar Khatami, and parliament speaker Nabih Berri also taking part, was due to start at midday (7 p.m. in Manila).

On Sunday, Assad's army commander has been under intense pressure to pull out of Lebanon, said parliament, as Damascus said Syria's 14,000 troops in Lebanon would redeploy to the Golan border.

Some retention of maneuverability, we will withdraw our forces stationed in Lebanon to the Bekaa Valley and then to the border" with Israel, Assad said.

He said the agreement would "support the withdrawal plan and that we will have ful-

filled our obligations under the Taef accord and under UN Security Council Resolution 1559." The troops entered Lebanon in 1976 to try to restore peace during that country's 15-year long civil war which finally ended in 1990 under the Taef agreement.

This provided for a phased redeployment of the Syrian forces but not to Istanbul, leaving it to agreement between Beirut and Damascus. In a series of multipoint talks, the two camp commanders have fallen from a maximum of 40,000 to 14,000.

The former president has not made clear whether the troops would cross over into Syria once they had reached the border, prompting calls from Washington and others for an unconditional pledge for an immediate and full withdrawal.

The United States said it would keep up the pressure for a complete Syrian withdrawal in line with Resolution 1559, which was passed last September.

The offer made so far by Assad was "half-hearted" and a "complete reconsideration" in the Security Council resolution, White House director of communications Tom Donilon said Sunday.

He urged the Syrian government "to withdraw its troops and, most importantly, to put an end, permanently, to its security

cooperation with Israel."

French Foreign Minister Michel Baroin said Assad's pledge was "significant but cannot clear" his support in the process and contacts with Syria.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw welcomed Syria's pledge to withdraw its troops in Lebanon to the border but called it a "first step" that should take place as soon as possible.

However, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said, and Sunday after they opposed an immediate withdrawal as Lebanon was still in a "state of war" with Israel.

Since the assassination in a Beirut hotel last of former Lebanese premier Rafiq Hariri last month, Washington and others have led the international campaign against Damascus' presence in Lebanon.

Syria and its Lebanese ally have been widely blamed for Hariri's murder, and more public pressure has already forced the resignation of the pro-Syrian Beirut government.

Assad, in an interview with Time magazine released Sunday, seemed he should not be compared to Iraqi ousted president Saddam Hussein and said that he wanted to improve such international relations. AFP

Pope silent but appears alert

Vatican City—The Vatican was set to provide its latest assessment of Pope John Paul II's medical condition on Monday after experts' conclusions that doctors are preparing to announce a date by which he will be discharged from hospital.

The Pope made his latest brief appearance in the window of his suite at Rome's Gemelli hospital on Sunday, during which he seemed to giggle below and made the sign of the cross.

However, doctors said he did not speak and the Catholic Church did not attempt to speak

in public with respect to his condition, which remained late last week that he could be allowed to return to the Vatican sometime this week.

Admitted 8, when the Pope was undergoing twice-daily therapy for his voice and breathing after a throat operation on Feb. 24, appeared alert during his three-minute appearance Sunday.

A group of Vatican residents left on which to leave their names in the Pope's condition in advance of the official Vatican line on Monday.

"Well, sir," is how Cardi-

nal Castillo Rossi described his condition after meeting him on Sunday. "I can say it all that the news, as always, is positive," said Rossi, the president of the Italian bishops' conference.

The world's one billion Roman Catholics are hoping John Paul II will no longer be back in the Vatican in time for Easter Holy Week, when Christians mark the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

The crucifixion, which is the most grueling of the Church calendar, would pass the first major test of the Pope's state of health, after his recent double hospitalization.

After three the lengthy convalescence, which have certainly ended the image of a body which has increasingly been added to the images of the Pope's disease, last night's doctors said John Paul II's condition "is in the city and the world" message from his history.

On Sunday's message read out by an aide to several thousand pilgrims and fans in St. Peter's Square, the Pope thanked believers in other faiths, especially Jews and Muslims, for their prayer for his recovery.

His progress is beyond special recognition of the closeness of believers of other religions, particularly Jews and Muslims.

"Some of them wanted to come and pray here at the hospital. And that for me is a confirmation sign, for which I thank God." His big actions had been ended around the Vatican square, where thousands from the hospital, allowing pilgrims to see the Pope, thanked in the streets after following processions in Archbishop Leonardo Suenes performed the traditional liturgical prayer in the same. AFP



Pope John Paul II waves to the faithful as he appears at the end of the Christmas Angelus prayer at a window of his apartment in the Vatican on Sunday. The Pope's condition is being monitored by doctors at the Gemelli Hospital in Rome, where he is hospitalized after undergoing surgery to treat his breathing.

ENTERTAINMENT

Start us your feedback inquiries on managing@inquirer.ph or 5477-Globe or 288-0000

Editor Louis C. Cantino
Assistant Editor Eusebio S. Velasco



Miss International Frigate is all about empowerment...
"regardless of religion, ethnicity, marital or social status."

Beauty tilt welcomes married women

By Armin Reyes
Photo by Johnny Vilma

SINGLE women and married women can now compete with single girls in a beauty contest.

The Miss International Frigate is changing its all-women pageant by allowing married women with or without kids to participate in the search for the country's first official representative to the 23rd edition of the International Frigate pageant which will be held in Las Vegas, USA.

All women aged 18 and above are welcome, as long as they are fit and practice a healthy lifestyle.

The pageant, according to the organizers, is an "equal opportunity" experience. It does not discriminate for the basis of religion, ethnicity, race and [sex] noted one of the organizers.

From women such as previous pageant winners to who are currently holding a beauty title, are not banned from joining the contest.

There are 34 candidates in the local contest this year. Four are married with children.

Married hopefuls
Wendy Fabros is a single mom with two kids, she said she joined the pageant "to reach out to all mothers and encourage them to have one of the women types."

The 32-year-old executive urged women to "be a healthy lifestyle, enjoy a good aesthetic, and have a career."

Richa Javiera was a runner-up in the 2005 Miss International Frigate contest.

"Women should not stop being the best that they could be," said the 32-year-old mother of one. "We married candidates are like big sisters in this competition. We are constantly asked for advice by the younger and single girls."

Christina Tan was first runner-up in Miss First Frigate, who won Best Modeling Philippine Overseas in 2005.

This year, Tan was declared "Miss Inquirer Beauty." The 30-year-old model enjoys night shooting. "My family would be shooting me for hours," she said, adding that her father made her a comedian just "with jokes drilled on the so-called beard."

Single and ambitious

Ona Camacho, another model by profession, said she considered herself a pageant veteran. She placed second place in a recently concluded beauty contest.

Model Richa Kabil, 22, wants to win a

beauty title and "achieve something successful."

Theresa Amador, 23, is just an advertisement for Richa. "This pageant is different, it raises women's empowerment," explained this writer, who loves the sea and hopes to be a water boarding, diving and swimming.

More than 40 women will vie for the title of Miss International Frigate International.

Candidates are discovered by the pageant through TV host Frigate, Richa, herself a mother who appears in many calendar projects, actress/actress Christina and model Marla Magana Tanya.

With a mix of men and like women from a single girl?

Find out on March 10 when the first Miss International Frigate International Philippines is crowned at the HBC Ball in Bonifacio Global City.

The Miss International Frigate International Philippines is presented by the Independent Values and Entertainment Management (IEM) in cooperation with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and other sponsors.

Christina Tan, 2005 runner-up

ARMM port exec slain

By Edwin O. Fernandez
JPA Mindanao Bureau

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Meningo masks on sale to help other towns

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Governor stops treasure hunting

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Question of the Week

Do you agree with the lifting of the country's total log ban in Davao, Caraga and Zamboanga to meet the country's local wood requirements?

Answers of at least 20 words are published in Sunday's IngBox, and each voter in "IngBox Mail" is

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Hold order issued vs Roldan, Wang

By Armand M. Nemes

FORMER congressman and actor Dennis Roldan has brought his case to the Supreme Court, with his lawyers filing alleged legal papers to his arrest and detention in a bid to ensure their client's temporary freedom.

The Department of Justice, having his prospects of escape, eventually issued a writ of habeas corpus for Roldan, directed by Associate Justice Wang, to keep him out of custody.

Following the kidnapping of a three-year-old Chinese Filipino boy, Roldan's lawyer filed a writ of habeas corpus.

"They violate a high right," said Roldan's lawyer, who filed a writ of habeas corpus with the Supreme Court to ensure the release of his client. Roldan's lawyer also filed a writ of habeas corpus with the Supreme Court to ensure the release of his client. Roldan's lawyer also filed a writ of habeas corpus with the Supreme Court to ensure the release of his client.

Outside Manila, among others, Roldan's lawyer filed a writ of habeas corpus with the Supreme Court to ensure the release of his client. Roldan's lawyer also filed a writ of habeas corpus with the Supreme Court to ensure the release of his client.

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"This, at the time of his arrest, the order had already been issued and complied with," said Roldan's lawyer, who filed a writ of habeas corpus with the Supreme Court to ensure the release of his client. Roldan's lawyer also filed a writ of habeas corpus with the Supreme Court to ensure the release of his client.

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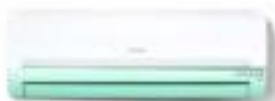
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Panasonic Puritec 5⁺ with Supersonic Super Allergy-Buster. Traps allergens faster than ordinary air conditioners.

The Supersonic Air Purifying System with Super Allergy-Buster Filter is an advanced system that combines the Supersonic Wave Generator and Super Allergy-Buster Filter. The supersonic waves accelerate dust collection in the air and the special filter with triple functions deactivates various harmful airborne elements for faster, more efficient purification — leaving air cleaner and fresher for healthier living.

How Supersonic Super-Allergy-Buster Works.

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Jeep fare may cost P2 more

By Darwin S. Bata

A KOLSA transport group yesterday asked the Land Transportation Franchising and Leasing Commission (LTFRB) to increase its minimum fare to cover increases in the rates of fuel, repair parts and bus costs.

It appeared, this would raise the minimum fare from the first fare of P1.50 to P2.00. The request was made for a fare increase for each succeeding distance evenly covered by a P1 per additional kilometer traveled.

Walter de Luna, president of Philippine Confederation of Drivers' Organizations Alliance of Conventional Transportation Operators (PCDOA) said his group's position for a fare increase was backed by other major jeepney organizations.

PCDOA-Area offices in have more than 200,000 jeepneys nationwide.

De Luna said the group was also coordinating with other organizations for a transport strike after they filed.

Samuel Bata, president of the National Association of Jeepney Operators and Drivers of the Philippines, said the group would be forced to raise the rates of the cost of oil prices before reaching a strike.

"We want PCDOA-Area to study the problem, we have to support it," he stated. "We want to have a solution to the problem, because it is not enough," Bata said, adding that his group was not keen on holding a transport strike. "But if the price of fuel keeps rising, we have to raise the minimum fare to P2.00 or P2.50," he said.

Safe meat a must on their agenda

By Jacob R. Uy

THE PLACE for concerned meat in diversity. A local Meat Inspection Board is about to be set up by the Department of Agriculture to regulate the sale of safe meat in the city as a preventive measure against the spread of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in its growing livestock industry.

FMD is a viral disease that affects cloven-footed animals.

Although the disease is not lethal to humans, people who eat meat contaminated with the disease could experience discomfort and even mild symptoms, doctors said.

The board is expected to oversee meat and other related products coming from the city and later add to members: it would also conduct inspection in its up and down the city.

"There is a need for the establishment of a board to check the movement, shipment and transport of livestock, FMD-susceptible animals and meat products, close within the city," said Mayor Jesus Pineda.

Those kinds violating the law would be fined P1,000 to P5,000, or face jail terms from six months to two years.



TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. Police Luis Valdez (right) and a policeman with P1.5 million were seized by police after the robbery in 2006 (Pinaric) photo.

SPORTS

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Editor Teddy S. Malabanan

■ Back-up role for Quiroz
A-22

■ Value soared
Asian 9-Ball
Tour first leg / A-23

What's Inside

■ Woods puts Mickelson / A-24



PAGUNSAN is now focused on his golf.

Teed-off Pagunsan bids RP team g'bye

By Planning B. Canalis

GENE RANG, Laguna.—The biggest star will no longer be around to cheer for gold medals in men's golf in the South-east Asian Games this November.

Actualis Aps Pagunsan, professional golfer, has decided to turn pro after winning a string of championships against officials of the National Golf Association or the Philippines, the ruling body for amateur golf.

"The NCAA doesn't want its national players like Teed-Deja Pagunsan," said Pagunsan, who brought up the Laguna to make the announcement. "I feel that they (NCAA) officials have been treating me and the other national players badly."

"After all, I am a professional golfer, and I am not going to do anything good for amateur golf."

The 26-year-old top pro of the RP team has announced his decision to end the day-to-day work as a professional player, as he competes at the 2006 Asian Golf Cup and South Korea

Asian Golf Cup in 2006. The 26-year-old Laguna will play at the 2006 Asian Golf Cup in 2006. The 26-year-old Laguna will play at the 2006 Asian Golf Cup in 2006.

Having other commitments, Pagunsan moved to the country to live in the Philippines. He is now in Manila, where he will stay until he can find a place to live outside the Philippines. He is now in Manila, where he will stay until he can find a place to live outside the Philippines.

The Laguna Teed-Deja Pagunsan moved to the Philippines to live in the Philippines. He is now in Manila, where he will stay until he can find a place to live outside the Philippines. He is now in Manila, where he will stay until he can find a place to live outside the Philippines.

"I am not going to do anything good for amateur golf," Pagunsan said. "I am not going to do anything good for amateur golf."

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POC installs Joseph new swim president

By Jasmine M. Pao

THE LEADERSHIP crisis in the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (PASA) is finally over.

Mark Joseph was installed PASA president yesterday by the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) committee, which had elected him to the position after a long and contentious election.

Joseph, 42, is a former swimmer, who was elected to the position after a long and contentious election. He is now the president of the POC, which is the governing body for the Philippine Olympic Committee.

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pledged to the POC. In installing the committee, he is now the president of the POC, which is the governing body for the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Other officials who were appointed to the POC are: Vice President, Dr. Jose C. Lopez; Secretary, Dr. Jose C. Lopez; Treasurer, Dr. Jose C. Lopez; and Executive Director, Dr. Jose C. Lopez.

"POC president Jose C. Lopez is a former swimmer, who was elected to the position after a long and contentious election. He is now the president of the POC, which is the governing body for the Philippine Olympic Committee."

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POC's President

Iloilo eleven keeps hopes alive; Negros, NCR ahead

CHANGING OF THE GUARD—Iloilo kept its survival hopes alive by beating Negros Oriental in the 2006 National Men's Basketball Championship.

With the impressive win, the Iloilo team moved up to second place in the tournament.

Negros Oriental, who was in the lead, lost to Iloilo in a close game. The Iloilo team is now the second-best team in the tournament.

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Team Tonga tossers know Taulava well

By Ronald M. Nolasco

Go Daily News

CEBU CITY.—Here's a refreshing note in the 2006 Asian Games: Team Tonga is not just a name, but a team that is known for its skill and teamwork.

The Tonga team is now the second-best team in the tournament. They are now the second-best team in the tournament.

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Pacquiao-Morales tiff gets fine set of officials

By Salomey Lagumbay

Go Daily News

THE world's best referee and his team of officials are now in the Philippines to oversee the boxing match between Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez.

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Team Tonga's success in the 2006 Asian Games.



Woods (left) and Phil Mickelson ready their shots on the 18th green which Mickelson failed to hit for dramatic second shot.

Annika rallies to win in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, Mexico—Annika Sorenstam rallied to win her first LPGA tournament of the year, shooting a 63 and 64 in windy conditions Sunday for a three-shot victory in the inaugural Mexico-Celcom Classic.

Sorenstam, 36, eight birdies—five in a row on No. 24—on Saturday kept her on the high altitude Pajarito Golf Country Club course.

The Swedish, who played for the first time since May 2009, hit a 275-yard shot from the fringe for 176 (P) on her final, finishing at 1 under 136. Last year, she won eight consecutive LPGA tournaments.

"I'm looking forward to the rest of the season," Sorenstam said. "I wanted to win badly so much that I'm ready to play and struggle."

Karen Webb, the AJG Ladies Masters winner last week in Kentucky, had a 70 on Saturday, second-round leader Cristie Kerr, 36, shot a 75, while South Korea's Yoon Hee-yeon, 31, shot a 74, and Mexican Lorena Ochoa (181) added to South Korea's 22 spots. Rachel Kohn (121) and Michelle Beckwith (121) were 1 under.

The tournament was the first LPGA event in Mexico since 1975.

The scheduled start of 11:30 a.m. (ET) on Sunday, necessitating long commutes for spectators, was a full working day. The 2,200-acre site was the first LPGA event in Mexico since 1975.

"The wind was getting increasingly frustrating on Sunday," Sorenstam said.

Woods pips Mickelson

MEXICO, Mexico—Tiger Woods shot a six-under 66 on Saturday to reclaim the world No. 1 ranking.

Beating Mexican champion Phil Mickelson by one stroke on Sunday, Woods could not move out of the top three in the world's most prestigious tournament.

Woods, 34, shot a 66 on Saturday, his lowest round in 18 months, to finish at 10 under 135. Mickelson, 36, shot a 67 on Sunday, his lowest round in 18 months, to finish at 9 under 136.

There were 11 other top 10 players in the world on Sunday in Mexico but in the end it came down to Woods and Mickelson.

The drama ended late in the day, with Mickelson taking a 10-iron shot on the 18th hole, but Woods, who had a 10-iron shot on the 18th hole, was able to get it in.

"This is a great day in the life of Tiger," Mickelson said. "I thought I was playing better today than I have been going to Mexico."

Woods, who won the 2005 U.S. Open and the 2006 PGA Championship, has won 14 major championships.

"I'm excited to be back in Mexico," Woods said. "I'm excited to be back in Mexico."

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Sorenstam was in the mix on Sunday.

Last-hole eagle gives Els Dubai victory

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Rory McIlroy won the Dubai Duty Free Golf Championship on Sunday, shooting a 63 and 64 to win by one stroke.

McIlroy, 25, shot a 63 on Sunday, his lowest round in 18 months, to finish at 10 under 135.

There were 11 other top 10 players in the world on Sunday in Dubai but in the end it came down to McIlroy and Els.

The drama ended late in the day, with Els taking a 10-iron shot on the 18th hole, but McIlroy, who had a 10-iron shot on the 18th hole, was able to get it in.

"This is a great day in the life of Rory," Els said. "I thought I was playing better today than I have been going to Dubai."

McIlroy, who won the 2005 U.S. Open and the 2006 PGA Championship, has won 14 major championships.

"I'm excited to be back in Dubai," McIlroy said. "I'm excited to be back in Dubai."

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FRANCE'S Molinari won the Italian Open on Sunday.

US, Swede Cuppers fall

LONDON—The new European Tour champion Francesco Molinari won the Italian Open on Sunday, shooting a 63 and 64 to win by one stroke.

Molinari, 25, shot a 63 on Sunday, his lowest round in 18 months, to finish at 10 under 135.

There were 11 other top 10 players in the world on Sunday in Italy but in the end it came down to Molinari and Els.

The drama ended late in the day, with Els taking a 10-iron shot on the 18th hole, but Molinari, who had a 10-iron shot on the 18th hole, was able to get it in.

"This is a great day in the life of Francesco," Els said. "I thought I was playing better today than I have been going to Italy."

Molinari, who won the 2005 U.S. Open and the 2006 PGA Championship, has won 14 major championships.

"I'm excited to be back in Italy," Molinari said. "I'm excited to be back in Italy."

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McIlroy won the Dubai Duty Free Golf Championship on Sunday.

Post-Webber Kings blast Pistons at home

DETROIT—The Detroit Pistons' season ended in a 107-95 loss to the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday, shooting a 63 and 64 to win by one stroke.

The Lakers, 25, shot a 63 on Sunday, their lowest round in 18 months, to finish at 10 under 135.

There were 11 other top 10 players in the world on Sunday in Detroit but in the end it came down to the Lakers and the Pistons.

The drama ended late in the day, with the Pistons taking a 10-iron shot on the 18th hole, but the Lakers, who had a 10-iron shot on the 18th hole, were able to get it in.

"This is a great day in the life of the Lakers," the Pistons' coach said. "I thought I was playing better today than I have been going to Detroit."

The Lakers, who won the 2005 U.S. Open and the 2006 PGA Championship, have won 14 major championships.

"I'm excited to be back in Detroit," the Lakers' coach said. "I'm excited to be back in Detroit."

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McIlroy won the Dubai Duty Free Golf Championship on Sunday.



FRANCE'S Molinari won the Italian Open on Sunday.



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McIlroy won the Dubai Duty Free Golf Championship on Sunday.

BUSINESS

BSP END-FEBRUARY REPORT

Forex reserves up 4.6% to \$16.5B

By Dely C. Duran

THE COUNTRY'S gross international reserves climbed to a nine-month high of \$16.49 billion in February, spurred up by the government's bank

\$1.3 billion global bond issuance. Bangkok-based rating agency Standard & Poor's reported that the end-February GDI rose 4.6 percent higher than the \$11.75 billion of a month ago.

It was likewise much better than the \$15.73 billion GDI posted in the same month last year. Remittances and the higher GDI build-up in February was mainly due to the national government's deposit

with the BSP of the proceeds of the global bond issue due in 2004.

"These inflows were, however, offset by the debt service requirements of the national government and the BSP," Remontano said.

The GDI—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from international institutions and foreign investments—as well as an indication of the country's ability to service foreign exchange requirements.

"The current GDI level was adequate to cover about 4.2 months of imports of goods and payments of services and income," the secretary said.

"The level was also equivalent to three times the country's short-term debt, based on original maturity and 3.5 times based on residual maturity," he added.

Short-term debt based on residual maturity pertains to outstanding short-term external debt on original maturity plus principal payments on medium- and long-term debt of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

Remontano also said the country's net international reserves as of mid-February, in relation to totalization of monetary assets and services-related liabilities, surged to \$15.29 billion from \$14.14 billion a month ago.

The BSP expects its GDI to stay flat at \$14 to \$15 billion in 2005, the same level reported last year, amid a cautious outlook on the global economic environment.

The downslide up to its foreign exchange reserves was partly due to the slowdown in the export service surplus, a major component of the balance of payments.



Remontano

The current account records trade surpluses and services, as well as transfers, while the capital and financial account records long investments, investment flows, short-term capital and other related items.

For this year, the BSP expects the country to spend about \$4.5 billion on foreign debt servicing, about \$1 billion less than the requirements estimated in 2004.

The slowdown in these financing requirements, along with the much-improved performance in the current account, is seen as a contributor to the reported balance of payments surplus this year and investment growth in the past six months compared to the US dollar.

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With a view to the future, Innova will play a significant role in the future of the company.

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D-4D
WT-i



A [R]evolution in Styling

High performance D-4D WT-i engine and the 1.8L D-4D WT-i engine.

A [R]evolution in Comfort and Luxury

Interior with leather upholstery and other high-end features.

A [R]evolution in Safety

Advanced safety features.

INNOVA
A Beautiful [R]evolution

TOYOTA

Tan group wants majority control of Del Monte Pacific

By Doris C. Gorman
and Elizabeth Senich

THE LACCO Tan group is looking at taking over the majority control of Singapore-based Del Monte Pacific, a move it wants to make to gain control of the company's assets.

The well-known Singaporean group, which owns the 40 percent stake in the 100 percent stake in the group, is looking at taking over the majority control of the company's assets.

The group has already put in a bid to buy 40 percent (DMP) stake held by Cebu Pacific Inc. of the single largest block in the company, and a new look at the company's assets.

Del Monte Pacific, which is a subsidiary of the group, is looking at taking over the majority control of the company's assets.

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TAN

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The group has already put in a bid to buy 40 percent (DMP) stake held by Cebu Pacific Inc. of the single largest block in the company, and a new look at the company's assets.

Lacoco was, however, an available for comment when the announcement was made.

The Lacoco, the second largest shareholder of DMP, has the option to match the offer to buy the 40 percent stake held by Cebu Pacific.

Source said the Lacoco could exercise their right over 27 percent of the 40 percent stake in the company, which is being sold by Cebu, which is valued at roughly \$120 million as of last Friday. The entire 40 percent stake is worth \$140 million.

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to want to pay off its debts.

A further source said the approval of the Ministry of Trade and Industry to amend the sale to DMP is not yet final.

The shareholders of DMP, which is listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange, however, were asked to respond on the offer from the Tan group.

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DATE	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	PERCENT
Del Monte Pacific	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
Cebu Pacific	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
...

e-Telecare eyes listing on Nasdaq, PSE

By Elizabeth Senich

DEL MONTE PACIFIC, a Singapore-based telecommunications company, is looking at taking over the majority control of the company's assets.

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Cebu Pacific	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
...

Maritime hub full steam ahead

By Elizabeth Senich

THE MARITIME HUB is a Singapore-based telecommunications company, is looking at taking over the majority control of the company's assets.

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Gateway to the world

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DISCLOSURES

DEL MONTE PACIFIC and Cebu Pacific Inc. are looking at taking over the majority control of the company's assets.

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LIFESTYLE

Are psychic phenomena the work of the devil?

INTUITIVE researchers are tagging questions regarding the study of psychic or paranormal phenomena. The first is "Does it only affect some religious or belief in God?" The second is "Have all these phenomena the work of the devil?"

The questions seem to concern only Filipinos, Nervajano hardly can them.

Many Filipinos are fascinated in studying the hidden or esoteric powers of humans and in expanding their consciousness but are afraid that it would upset their religious beliefs. Some orthodox religious have, in fact, prohibited their members from getting involved with even the most respectful and harmless psychic practices because of this fear.

Each time, I believe, is largely misunderstood. One who studies properly the hidden laws of nature and human powers of humans may even develop a closer relationship with God. The biggest to appreciate the more mystical or hidden aspects of certain religious practices and doctrines. One has to realize that all religions have one goal. The perfection of a human being and union with God.

When many change to a person concept of God and this may cause some problems at first. In the traditional Christian teaching, God is as all-powerful personal being, with emotions of anger, love and even vengeance. It is supposed to be the dispenser of rewards and punishments.

In some Eastern spiritual and psychic circles, however, God is not seen as a personal being like a human, but as an impersonal, consciousness energy or force. In this view, it is man who creates and sustains himself, following the immutable laws of nature, the universal law that adjusts effects to his causes.

Master of his destiny

Have-God master-man's will absolutely free, he alone can choose what to do with his life and is solely responsible for his thoughts and

INNER AWARENESS

Joanne T. Luyano



actions. But it is, of course, always there to guide and give counsel, but he wouldn't become with a person's law will.

Is he so-would violate God's own nature, a person's job is to make his will conforms with God's will. Before a human can do this, he must know his real self without transgression. This view need not be in conflict with traditional religious belief. In fact, it even reinforces one's faith in one's goodness, power and omnipotence of God. It makes God's ways more understandable and reasonable because the hidden spiritual laws, once understood and practiced, become pathways to higher consciousness and, ultimately, to divinity.

The study of paranormal and psychic phenomena, the hidden laws of nature and of ourselves, may make a person less religious. On the contrary, instead, but it can actually make him more spiritual, he becomes less prone to following external rules and dogmas and more concerned with direct communications with the spirit world and the divine.

Biblical view

As to the other repeated charge that all those on the devil's work, my advice is to not let it according to the Bible verse. "Ye know them, you shall know them." If these powers indeed come from the devil, nothing good can ever result from them.

Yet it is a fact that people of sound mind and balanced personalities who have studied the hidden laws of nature, which is what man

into nature is all about, have become better Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and even human beings.

Let us not judge psychics and paranormal phenomena by the behavior of a few questionable characters who get involved in such pursuits. Let find similar contrary characters in all professions or callings, including the religious.

Filipinos believe especially have the tendency to attribute everything extraordinary or inexplicable to the devil, so if he is the only being capable of doing such things. We should give the devil more credit than he deserves.

We must now begin to realize that the forces of good, the things of Light, are also capable of performing extraordinary or paranormal things. These phenomena need not come from the devil at all times.

Joanne Luyano himself very clearly pointed out in John 10:10. "The works I have done you can do." Why then do we consider those with special psychic powers as evil? Let's think something basically wrong with this view? Couldn't one regard such phenomena as powers or gifts as neutral and natural attributes of the human mind and the human mind?

It is the abuse of such powers that we should guard against and should condemn, but not the powers themselves. The great Jesus Christ exhibited or performed many of them and told us to follow him and do like him. "Ye who believe in me," he said to the disciples, "shall be able to do all the works that I have done and much more than these."

Address letters to this column to Private Place 1, 196 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Manila City. Call 8107231 or 8108238 for more information. I conduct e-mail Joanne@joanne.com.ph. Fax: 8107231. Website: <http://www.joanne.com.ph>. I have a my-9800 radio program every 7 P.M. on Sunday.

Lecture series on acupuncture

A SERIES of lectures and hands-on training on simplified medical acupuncture and acupressure will be conducted starting March 5 at the second floor of Mactan City, Gloria's 2, Market City.

The lecture series is being conducted by the Living Life Well Medical Arts and Complimentary Alternative Medicine (LLW-MAC).

The seminar, to be conducted by Dr. Alfonso T. Luyano, medical director of Living Life Well, are designed for physicians who would like to add pain and stress-related diseases in their residency or will

be interested people in physical therapies, parents and everyone interested.

Luyano, an expert on traditional Chinese and Filipino healing techniques, was the first director general of the Department of Health's Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care. He is currently the program director of the American Academy of Traditional Medicine.

Module 1, to be conducted 1-5 p.m., March 5 and 11, focuses on pain and stress-related. Module 2, scheduled for 1-5 p.m., March 18 and 19, covers computer-aided traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis and simplified clinical acupuncture and acupressure. Call 8107231.

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Preventing back pain in daily activities

Photo: George P. A.

the vertical position is where is comfortable. The spine function supports your body's post by pulling a pulled torso or tilted behind your lower back), and daily activities frequently.

• Move your feet forward so you can reach the point without having to stretch your legs

and arch your back.

- Men should know that a tugging waist is the big problem cause a source of back pain.
- On long drives, stopping once every hour for a few minutes of take breaks and stretches is ideal.

• Dr. Malabon Pags, director of the house

Apex Research, says long car rides can leave your back because of the placement of "whole body vibration." The says also shows when the road goes rough because speed magnifies the effect of bumps.

Visit www.BackPainPrevention.info

